

Business Area #4:
Central Square

Boundaries: Sellers Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Inman Street, Bishop Allen Drive, Main Street, Windsor Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Landsdowne Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, and establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street



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There were two **commercial robberies** reported in the Central Square business district over the first six month of 2002. Both of these incidents were in March and separated by two weeks. A Massachusetts Avenue bank was robbed by a note-passer on the morning of March 11th, 2002. This case is still under investigation. A gang of Dorchester juveniles robbed a gas station at gunpoint in the early AM house of March 28th. They subsequently went on a one-night crime spree in the Greater Boston area and were arrested by the Brookline Police. Throughout the decade of the 1980s, the Central Business District area averaged nearly 25 commercial robberies annually. Over the past five years, the numbers of commercial robberies in the Square have fallen below four per year. • A harbinger of tough economic times is a significant increase in **Shoplifting**. The number of incidents of thefts from stores increased from 39 in the first six months of last year in Central Square to 60 for the same time period. A high percentage of the shoplifting arrestees are homeless individuals stealing food at local groceries and personal items from drug stores. • Incidents of **larceny from the person** (-12%) were sporadic in nature with no discernible pattern. Thefts by pickpockets working fast food restaurants in the Square appear to be on the decline. • A series of weekend beaks in to offices and restaurants along Mass Ave and Green Street in the Spring ignited a 45% increase in **Commercial Burglary** for this business district. Laptop computers were the targets of the thieves in the office breaks. The breaks into area restaurants were more professional in nature with the night receipts from safes the desired booty. • Employees at local health clubs, dance studios, and shelters were victimized on a number of occasions with the theft of their private property from back rooms and lockers. A review of arrest data portends that the typical thief involved with **larceny from buildings** is a homeless male between the ages of twenty-five to thirty. •

CRIME	2 nd Quarter 2001	2 nd Quarter 2002	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	45	44	-2%
Larceny from Person	41	36	-12%
Commercial Burglary	11	16	+45%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	+100%
Shoplifting	39	60	+54%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	31	33	+6%